

Central North Carolina Drought Update— Late Fall 2012

Rainfall was sparse across central North Carolina during November, and only a few locations along the southern tier of the area (generally counties along the South Carolina border) received as much as one inch of rain (Fig 1). On the larger scale, most of the state received less than 25 percent of normal rainfall for the month (Fig 2).

Rainfall - November 2012

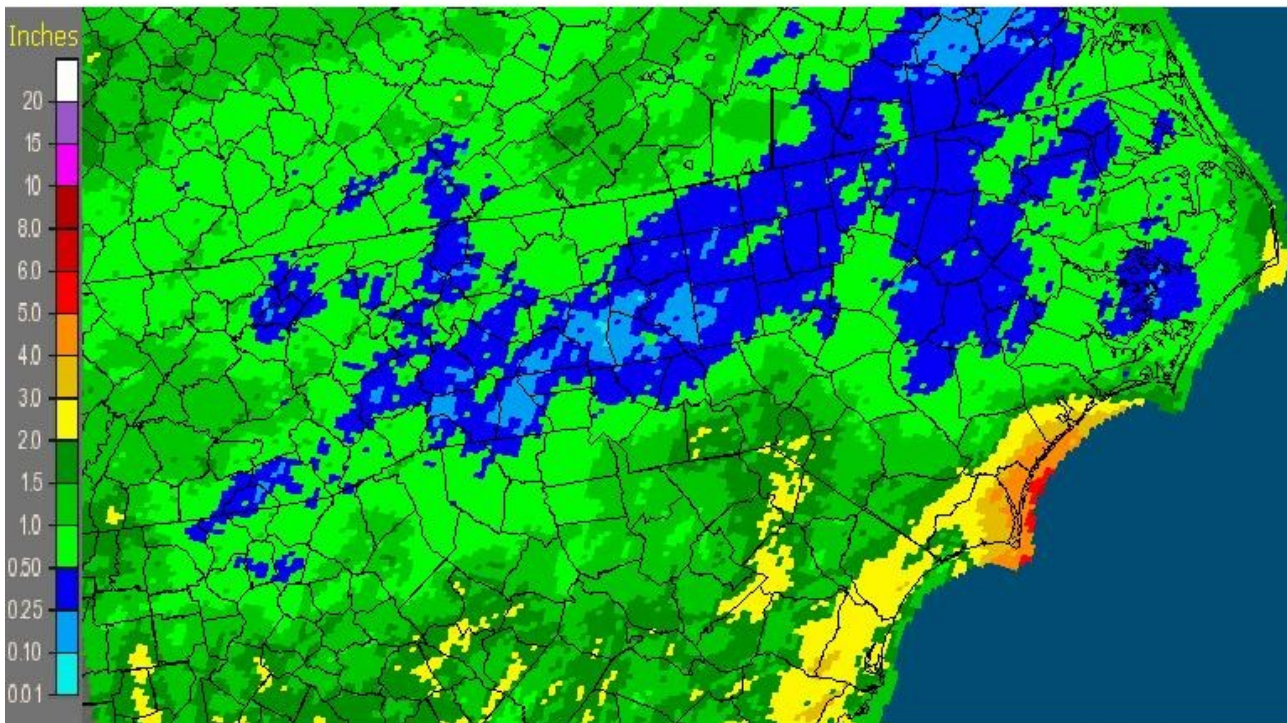


Figure 1—Rainfall for the month of November, 2012

Percent of Normal Rainfall - November 2012

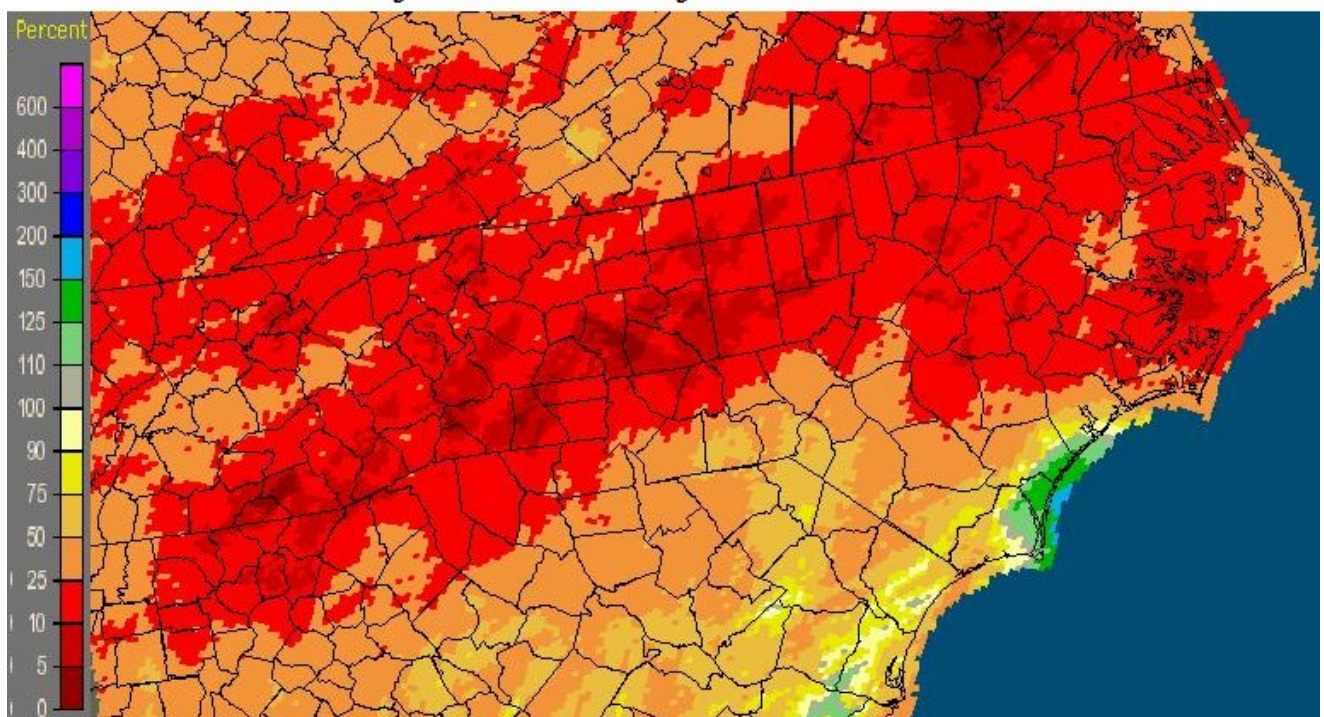


Figure 2—Percent of normal rainfall for November, 2012

Over the longer term, even hurricane Sandy in late October was of little assistance, and the entire state exhibits a significant rainfall deficit for the fall through December 1st (Fig 3).

90 Day Percent of Normal Rainfall (through 12/1/2012)

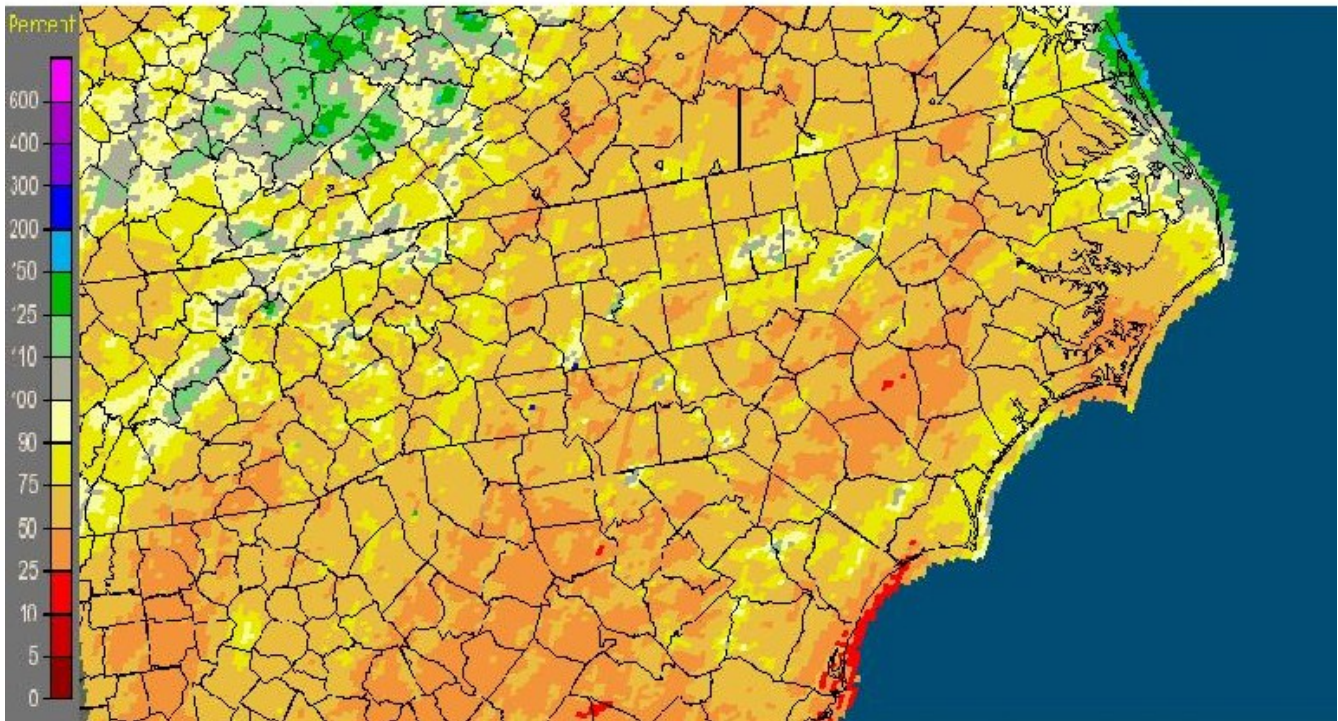


Figure 3 — Percent of normal rainfall over the past 3 months

The water level in Falls Lake, the major water supply reservoir for Raleigh, has been in a slow, but steady decline since mid-September, and was about a foot below the target level on Dec 1 (Fig 4).

Falls Lake Level (through 12/1/2012)

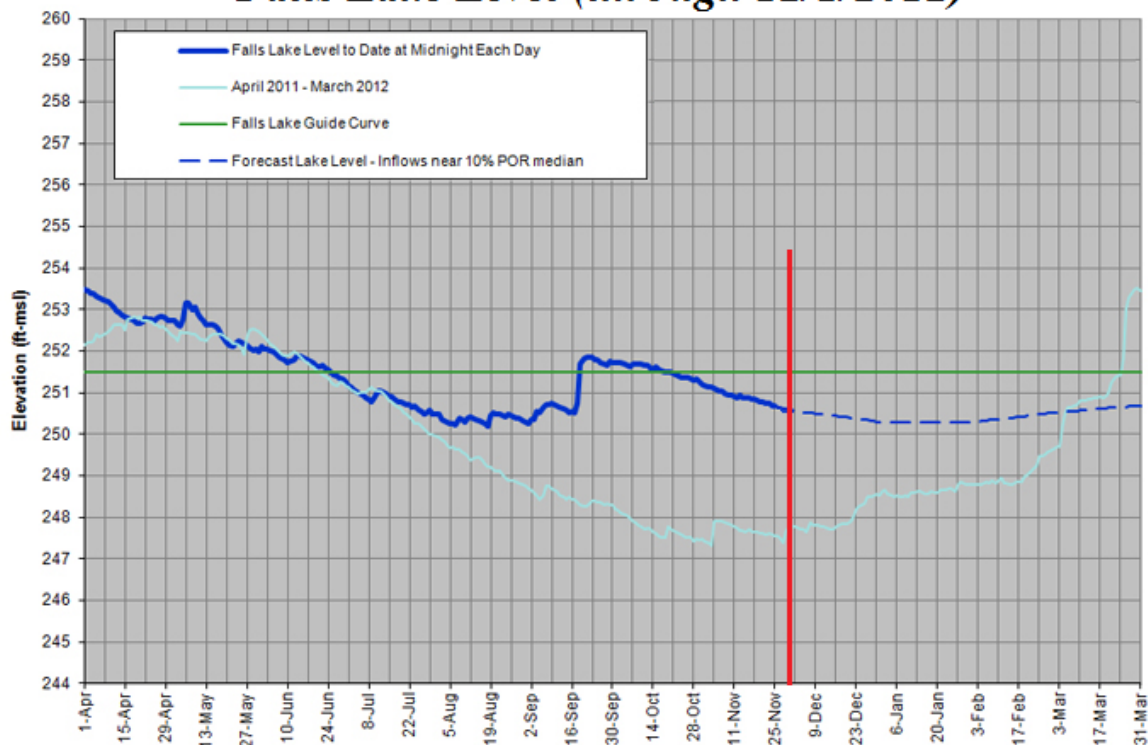
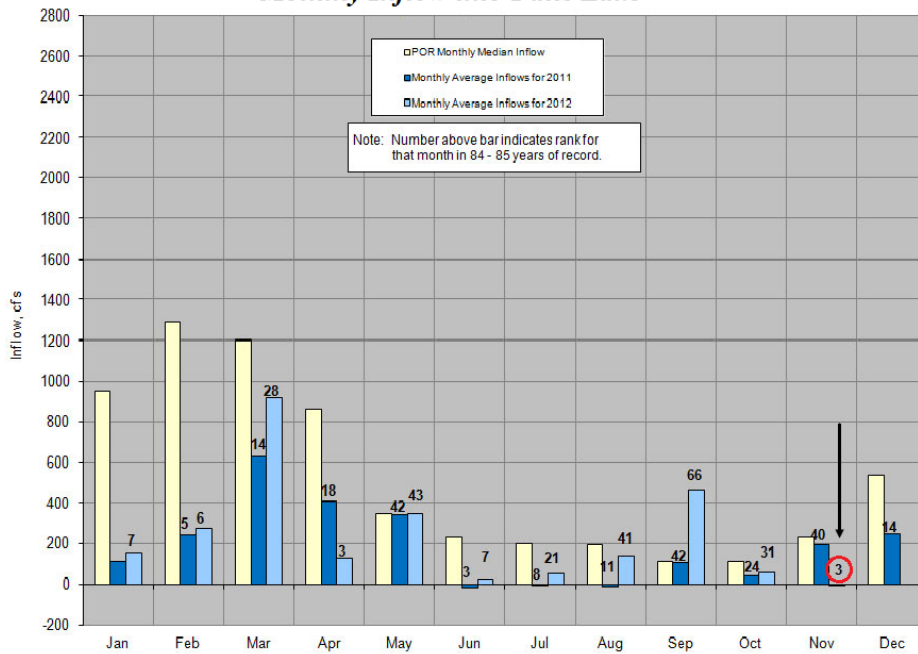


Figure 4—Falls Lake level through December 1

Monthly Inflow into Falls Lake



The inflow into Falls Lake (primarily from the Haw River) was the 3rd lowest recorded for the month of November in its 84 year period of record.

Figure 5 - Monthly Falls Lake Inflow

The level in Lake Jordan, which is the major water supply for much of the western Triangle, shows a similar steady decline since early October. The decline in Jordan has been more rapid than the decline at Falls, however, and the lake was a little more than 2 feet below normal as of December 1st.

Jordan Lake Level (through 12/1/2012)

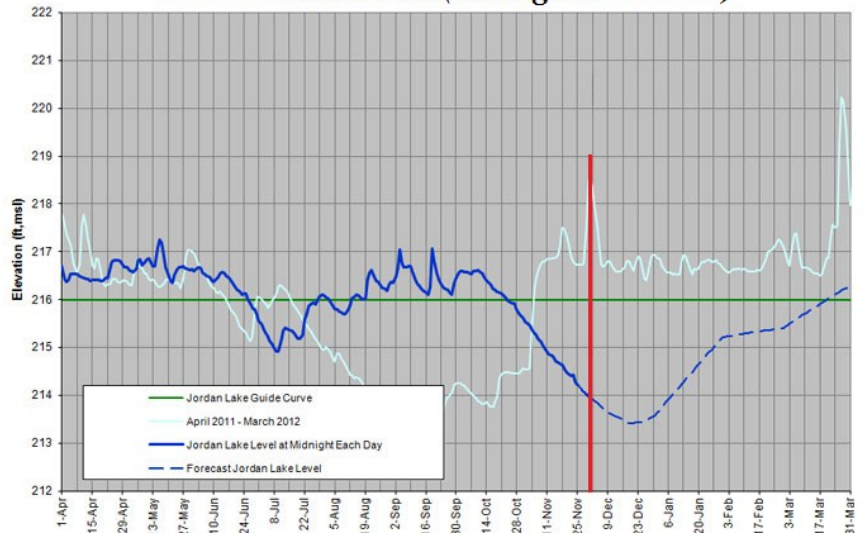
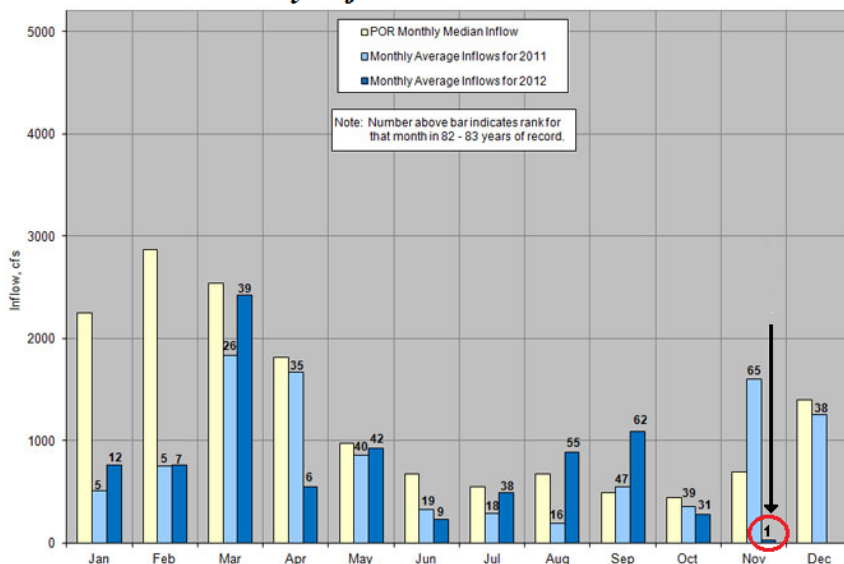


Figure 6—Jordan Lake level through Dec 1

Monthly Inflow into Jordan Lake

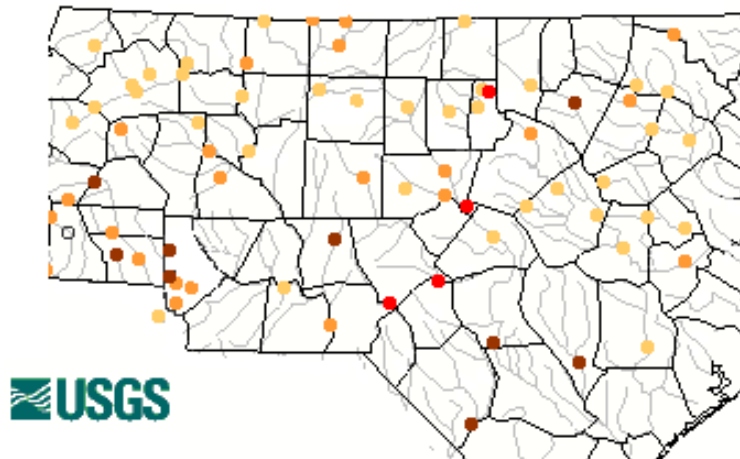


The November inflow into Lake Jordan was the lowest recorded in its 82 year period of record.

Figure 7—Monthly Jordan Lake Inflow

Percentage of Normal Streamflow - Nov 2012

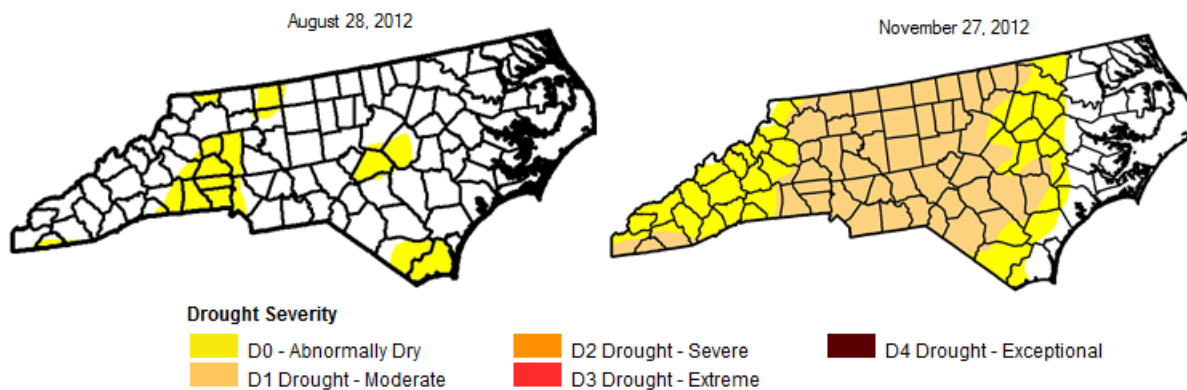
Streamflows have shown steady decline this fall as well. Flows for the month of November were nearly all below the 25th percentile, a number of these were below the 10th percentile.



Explanation - Percentile classes			
New low	<=5	6-9	10-24
Extreme hydrologic drought	Severe hydrologic drought	Moderate hydrologic drought	Below normal

Figure 8—Percent of normal streamflow for November, 2012

Drought conditions, as determined by the U.S. Drought Monitor in conjunction with the N.C. Drought Management and Advisory Committee, have been deteriorating and expanding steadily this fall as well. As of December 1st, there is some level of drought over all of the state east of Interstate 95, with more than half of the state suffering from moderate drought conditions.



Week	Nothing	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
August 28, 2012	85.50	14.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
November 27, 2012	19.97	80.03	50.62	0.00	0.00	0.00

Figure 9—Progression of drought conditions, September—December